



3. FUELS, LUBRICANTS AND SPILLS

Chemical releases in Michigan are potentially reportable under one or more of twenty-six different State and Federal regulations. Determining which regulations apply to a specific release can be an overwhelming task. The "Release Notification Requirements in Michigan" table, compiled by the DEQ Environmental Science and Services Division, is designed to help owners and operators of facilities in Michigan, including vehicles and farms, determine their potential notification and reporting requirements, in the event of a chemical release. Check your permits, licenses, registrations, pollution prevention plans, and local ordinances for additional release reporting requirements. Visit the DEQ website at www.michigan.gov/deq and type "spill/release reporting" in the Search field.

The remote locations that are typical of most forestry operations result in many on-site maintenance activities. The equipment operator must constantly guard against spills of fuels, lubricants or other toxic materials. Proper equipment maintenance, including routine checks of hoses and fittings, is the key to protecting surface water and ground water resources from the impacts of fuel and lubricant spills and leaks.

Common sense, care, proper planning and the anticipation of problems that may occur can eliminate or reduce potential water quality problems arising from spills.

Spill Prevention Best Management Practices

The following BMPs/precautions should be adopted for all activities requiring equipment operations:

- ▶ A contingency plan for accidental spills should be developed for every operation. Also, spill kits, as recommended by DEQ, should be provided for every piece of equipment operating on site.
- ▶ Provide receptacles in maintenance areas or in vehicles for collecting solid wastes such as empty grease tubes, oil filters and other trash. The materials collected in these receptacles must be disposed of properly, at an approved solid waste site. Empty oil barrels should be recycled or properly disposed of as solid waste at an approved land fill.
- ▶ Locate fueling areas away from water bodies and drainage structures and at locations where a potential spill can be contained and properly treated. This will minimize the chance of surface water or groundwater contamination. Where a spill does contaminate soil, the contaminated material must be removed from the site and deposited at a facility licensed for that purpose.
- ▶ Designate a specified area for draining lubricants from equipment during routine maintenance. The area should allow all waste lubricants to be collected and stored until transported off-site for recycling, reuse, or disposal at an approved site. Maintenance activity should not occur while equipment is located in water bodies, flood plains or wetlands.
- ▶ Provide maintenance vehicles with the equipment necessary to collect and store lubricants drained during repair activities. Breakdowns could require lubricants to be drained from equipment at locations away from the designated collection area.

- Provide DEQ approved spill kits to every equipment operator.



Spills

When spills of fuels or lubricants do occur, if the spill is large, an emergency situation may exist. An operator or any member of a logging crew must be prepared to take action to keep the spill from spreading and entering the water courses on the site. Any emergency spill should be reported to the **Pollution Emergency Alerting System (PEAS) toll-free at (800) 292-4706**. Additional contacts may be necessary or desirable, depending on the location and spill situation. It is recommended that each logging site have a completed Spill Response Plan that is available to all members of the crew.